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Serious Miscalculation In Cuban Incident Led to International Black Eye for U.S.

The great question in Washington and quite obviously over the rest of the nation, is "who goofed in Cuba?"

President Kennedy has generously offered to take full blame for the Cuban debacle. He, after all, had the power to halt the invasion plans or allow them to move ahead.

But the obvious indication is that someone within the President's inner circle provided him with an extreme miscalculation of the strength of Castro in Cuba, and the weakness of the rebels there.

The U. S. sustained a world-wide black eye for its part in the incident. Perhaps this would have been avoided had the invasion been a success.

We wondered just what part the U. S. actually played in the Cuban invasion. Government sources in Washington drop a fact here and there, and from this we can draw the following participation:

The U. S. either trained or help train Cuban exiles in Guatemala and possibly another Latin American spot. We equipped them, and armed them. Some training of Cuban exiles took place in Florida, but this apparently was not under the direct control of the CIA. All this training started before Kennedy took office.

Kennedy could have halted the invasion plan. Castro obviously had become

a captive of the Communist government in Cuba, however, and the President was strongly advised by his experts to move ahead with the plans. We didn't tell the Cuban rebels to invade. We just didn't tell them not to.

U. S. warships provided passive support for the invasion, lying off the coast while the invasion was carried out. No U. S. troops took part. When Castro showed his muscles—Russian tanks, Russian MIGs, modern arms and apparent support by Cuban residents—the rebels were pinned down. They were not too strong in number, and had depended on a revolt of the Cuban public to boost their ranks. This didn't occur.

When the rebels were chopped up, the U. S. warships helped take some of them off the beaches.

There obviously was a very serious miscalculation in the Cuba incident. There has not been the adverse attitude from other nations that had been expected. But it was still undoubtedly a setback for the U. S. Now we have to pick ourselves up and start over in the Cuban matter. This will take some time, and Castro will have time to train jet pilots and other dangerous operators for Communist weapons.

Who's to blame? As one high-ranking official said, there's enough blame to go around for most everybody up here.